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# Jackson Compares Nicaragua Issue to Watergate

By GERALD M. BOYD

Special to The New York Times

CINCINNATI, April 13 — The Rev. Jesse Jackson today said that the Reagan Administration, in mining the harbors of Nicaragua, had created a crisis for the country that made "Watergate look benign."

Mr. Jackson's remarks represented the latest in increasingly biting criticism by the Democratic Presidential hopeful of the Administration policy toward Nicaragua and El Salvador. The comment came during a brief airport press conference as Mr. Jackson headed here from Chicago, having appeared earlier in Phoenix, Ariz.

Mr. Jackson declined again today to directly call for Mr. Reagan's impeachment over the mining issue. His position is that Congress must begin a review to determine if the situation warrants impeachment.

However, as Mr. Jackson came into Ohio to begin two days of campaigning, he argued that Congress, through a nonbinding resolution, had not gone far enough in making sure the Administration's policy in Central America changed.

"Both the Senate and the House are to be congratulated for their rapid action in censoring the C.I.A.'s mining of the harbors of Nicaragua, but the undeclared war against the people of Nicaragua is still a matter of great concern," he said. "It must be stopped."

For the first time Mr. Jackson expanded the target of his attack to include the Director of Central Intelligence, William J. Casey. He contended that Mr. Casey had stated that he would find other sources for financing the mining, including a foreign government, if Congress withdrew funds for the action.

A spokesman for the C.I.A. said today that Mr. Casey had never made such remarks.

Arguing that the Democratic Party cannot pursue politics as usual, Mr. Jackson said neither of his rivals for the nomination, Walter F. Mondale and Senator Gary Hart, had gone far enough in opposing the Administration's action. He called upon both of them to join him in urging further action in Congress. Such action, he said, was needed to "stop our funding of terror of Nicaragua and El Salvador now and to withdraw all our troops from Central America."

"It is not enough for Walter Mondale to call mining the harbors a clumsy and

ill-conceived act," Mr. Jackson said. "It is not enough to imply that the main problem was not informing Congress adequately. Our foreign policy in Central America is wrong. We are standing on the wrong side of history. We are engaged in killing people, and starving people who are trying to work out their own destiny."

Mr. Jackson said at a press conference in Cincinnati that he believes both Mr. Mondale and Gary Hart were moving in the direction of a posture to "demilitarize" United States involvement in Central America.

On Thursday while campaigning in Arizona, Mr. Jackson criticized Mr. Hart on several occasions saying that Mr. Hart had failed to return to the Senate to vote on resolutions that would have cut off United States financing in Central America.

Mr. Jackson's reference to Watergate came as he argued that the nation must recognize the significance of the mining.

"We must all realize the seriousness of a situation that makes Watergate look benign," he said. "Watergate was by stealing; Central American action is by killing, maiming and destroying."

Mr. Jackson arrived here poised to

resume a hectic campaign schedule that is to take him to areas with high concentrations of minorities, including the cities of Cincinnati, Dayton and Cleveland.

On Thursday, as he wrapped up campaigning in Arizona, Mr. Jackson spoke with passion on the plight of American Indians in a visit to Window Rock. He called for the creation of a Cabinet-level agency to protect Indian affairs and interests. He also called for the abolishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which he called "the worst bureaucracy in American history."

Mr. Jackson told the Navajo tribal council that there should be a change in the leasing of coal reserves on Indian lands, which he contended was banished by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Mr. Jackson said that 25 percent of all coal reserves are on Indian lands.

"These leases should be renegotiated as soon as possible," Mr. Jackson said. "I pledge to help find a way to renegotiate."